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Message Text

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64
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 L-03 CEA-02

CIEP-02 COME-00 DRC-01 /165 W
---------- 015930
R 161729Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS PARIS 29601

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WEST AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE/FRENCH SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REF(A) ABIDJAN 7751
(B) STATE 221123

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MEETING OF 10 WEST AFRICAN STATES AND FRANCE HELD TUESDAY RESULTED IN NO BIG SURPRISES OR MAJOR DECISIONS, BUT MAY HAVE LAID GROUNDWORK FOR IMPORTANT STEPS IN EVOLUTION OF FRENCH RELATIONSHIP WITH WEST AFRICAN STATES. END SUMMARY.
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1. ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 13 WAS ATTENDED BY SIX HEADS OF STATE: NIGER, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL, GABON, UPPER VOLTA, AND CAR, TWO MINISTERS FOR FONAFF: TOGO AND DAHOMEY: TWO FINMIN MALI AND CONGO (B). TWO FRANC ZONE MEMBERS, TCHAD AND CAMEROUN, DID NOT ATTEND. MALAGASY (WHICH IS MEMBER OF OCAM), AND MAURITANIA HAVING WITHDRAWN FROM THE FRANC ZONE, WERE INVITED BUT DID NOT ATTEND. GUINEA WAS NOT INVITED.

2. PRESS REPORTS HAVE GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO MIDDLE EAST WITH EMPHASIS FOLLOWING IDEAS:
(A) AFRICAN STATES AND FRANCE WILL MAINTAIN INDEPENDENT POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, I.E. FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES WILL HAVE COMPLETE FREEDOM TO ESTABLISH THEIR POLICIES (WHICH APPEARS TO MEAN FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO NOT ATTEMPT OFFER GUIDING INFLUENCE),

(B) HAMANI DIORI, NIGER, INDICATED TO PRESS THAT FRENCH POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT OF MAJORITY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND NOTABLY THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS MUST BE PRESERVED, AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND INFLUENCE ON OUTCOME OF MID-EAST NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO TWO SUPERPOWERS. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU INDICATED THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WHOLE SHOULD BE MEANS FOR GUARANTEEING MID-EAST PEACE. THERE ARE SUBTLE INDICATIONS THAT DISCUSSIONS FOCUSSED UPON LARGER ROLE FOR EUROPE. AFRICANS PUBLICLY TOOK POSITION THAT THEY DESIRE PARTICI-PATION IN RESOLUTION OF MID-EAST SETTLEMENT.

3. WHILE DISCUSSIONS HERE CLEARLY TOUCHED UPON OPERATION OF FRANC ZONE, PRESS COVERAGE INDICATES NO IMPORTANT MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PRACTICE. WHILE BCEAO WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENCY REGULATION AND FOR SUPPORTING CFA VALUE IN RELATION TO FRENCH FRANC. THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON CREATION OF A WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (BOAD) WITH AFRICAN MANAGEMENT. AN AFRICAN GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR FOR BCEAO WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT FRENCH DIRECTOR GENERAL. LOCATION IN WEST AFRICA OF BCEAO AND BOAD HAS NOT YET BEEN ES-TABLISHED. EACH STATE WILL HAVE TWO MINISTERS ON BOARD OF BCEAO, WHEREAS HERETOFORE FRANCE'S PARTICIPATION WAS 6 OF 18. FORMA-LIZATION OF ACTIONS AMONG WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS IN FORM OF TREATY PLUS AN AGREEMENT ON BOAD SIGNED BY SENEGAL, NIGER, IVORY COAST, UPPER VOLTA AND DAHOMEY AND SOON TO BE SIGNED BY TOGO.
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4. WHILE PRE-SUMMIT PRESS COVERAGE HAD TOUCHED UPON REPLACING EXISTING

REGIONAL GROUPINGS PARTICULARLY OCAM WITH COMMONWEALTH TYPE ARRANGEMENT, THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED, BUT "ORGANISM DE CONCERTATION" HAS BEEN CREATED, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT DIORI. THIS APPEARS TO BE TEMPORARY MEASURE WHICH WOULD RELIEVE DISCONTENTMENT WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT AMONG SOME MEMBERS ABOUT OCAM, WHILE LEAVING FOR

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FUTURE DISCUSSIONS QUESTION OF DESIRABILITY OF MOVING TOWARD
COMMONWEALTH FORMULA. FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RESPONSIBLE FOR COOPERATION (MINISTER DENIAU) HAS BEEN GIVEN
RESPOSIBILITY TO ASSURE LIAISON AMONG GROUP.

5. ALL PARTIES AGREED TO HOLD, AT LEAST YEARLY, SUCH CONFERENCES
EITHER IN PARIS FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA.

6. PRESS COVERAGE HAS ALSO NOTED CONCERN EXPRESSED BY FRANCOPHONE
STATES ON DIMINUTION OF THEIR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES AS RESULT OF
ENLARGEMENT OF EEC AND OF FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC ON
SPECIALRELATIONSHIP WITH LDCS. PRESS HAS NOT REPORTED ON EXPECTAT-
IONS,
SPECIFIC DEMANDS OR CHANGE IN POLICY BY WEST AFRICANS, NOR ON ANY
COMMITMENTS MADE ON PART OF FRANCE TO WEST AFRICAN STATES.

7. EMBASSY EXPECTS TO OBTAIN GOF COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF CONFERENCE
IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
IRWIN

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